GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:34
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
OUTPUT OF KHARIF CROPS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kharif production during the current year has been projected less than the last year's output;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether advisories have been issued to the States for working towards higher Rabi output; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the other steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 34 DUE FOR REPLY ON 20TH OCTOBER, 2008.

(a) & (b): As per the 1st Advance Estimates released on 25th September, 2008, production of Kharif foodgrains during 2008-09 is estimated at 115.33 million tonnes which is lower by 5.63 million tonnes as compared to the Kharif foodgrains production of 120.96 million tonnes during 2007-08 (4th Advance Estimates released on 9th July 2008). Similarly, Kharif oilseeds production estimated at 17.95 million tonnes during 2008-09 is lower by 1.89 million tonnes, Sugarcane production estimated at 294.66 million tonnes is lower by 45.90 million tonnes and cotton production estimated at 23.91 million bales is lower by 1.90 million bales as compared to production of respective crops during Kharif 2007-08.

Kharif production has been affected due to adverse impact on sowing on account of deficient rainfall and floods in some parts of the country during monsoon 2008. However, these are preliminary estimates which will gradually improve owing to over all good rainfall received in most parts of the country during the monsoon season 2008. Shortly, firm assessment of area coverage and productivity would also be available. In fact, the 1st Advance Estimates of Kharif foodgains production during 2008-09 are higher by 3.09 million tonnes and Kharif oilseeds by 1.82 million tonnes as compared to the corresponding 1st Advance Estimates of Kharif foodgrains and oilseeds during 2007-08.

(c) & (d): During the the National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign 2008-09 held on 24th -25th September, 2008, State Governments were advised to ensure early sowing of wheat, use short duration seeds for summer rice, encourage inter-cropping for jowar, promote high yielding varieties of pulses and oilseeds, make efficient use of irrigation water and ensure timely and balanced use of fertilizers along with organic manures and micro-nutrients.

The areas affected by deficient/scanty rainfall in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu were advised to increase area and productivity of Rabi Jowar and flood affected areas of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Assam were advised to go for Rice, Kulthi, Toria and other crops depending on the time flood water recedes in these States.

It was also envisaged to bring additional area of about 10 lakh hectares under Wheat, 15 lakh hectares under pulses and 5 lakh hectares under other crops during the ensuing Rabi season. The addition in area is expected to compensate the loss in area during the Kharif season.